from time to time It is reviewed each year and is adopted to the need of the market with suitable modifications.

During the year 1995-96, foreign exchange worth Rs. 9,185.88 crores was earned It is estimated that during 1996-97 the country would earn foreign exchange worth Rs. 10,607 crores.

Production of Zinc and Lead

1762 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the position of production of zinc and lead during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the production of these products is not sufficient to meet the demand;

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the production;

(d) whether the Hindustaan Zinc Limited is one of the leading company dealing with the above production;

(e) if so, the performance of the company during the last three years;

(f) whether Hindustan Zinc Limited proposes to export these products; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e). The annual estimated demand, total production of primary zinc and lead metals in the country and the production of M/s Hindustan Zinc Limited (given in brackets), the leading public sector producer of these products, during the last three years is as follows :

Unit : Tonnes

	Zinc		Lead	
Year	Demand	Production	Demand	Production
1	2	3	4	5
1993-94	158000	143962 (119879)	73000	35179 (25299)
1994-95	192000	148424 (119807)	75000	44993 (34476)
1995-96	202000	141374 (115464)	80000	40316 (27848)

The gap between demand and primary production has been met by imports and recycling of scrap, secondaries etc. Also, M/s Hindustan Zinc Limited in the public sector and M/s Binani Zinc Limited in the private sector have plans for expansion of their production capacities for zinc metal and M/s Indian Lead Limited in the private sector for lead metal.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

PDS Issue Prices

1763. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of hike in issue prices of Public Distribution System during the last three years;

(b) the date on which the above prices were hiked last;

(c) whether the Government are considering to increase further the above prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which such hike is likely to be effective;

(f) whether the Government have a consensus on the issue, and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The details of Central Issue Price during the last three years are as under :

(Rs. in quintal)

	Effective from	PDS Common	PDS Fine	PDS Super Fine	RPDS Common	RPDS Fine	RPDS Super Fine
Rice	11.1.93	437	497	518	387	447	468
	01.2.94	537	617	648	487	567	598
Wheat	28.12.91	280	230				
	11.01.93	330	280				
	01.02.94	402	352				

Imported edible oil		*Bulk*	*(Rs. per ton) 15 kg tin*
	04.01.92	22000	25000
	21.07.94	24000	27000

Kerosene	16.09.92	Rs.2201.54 per kilo litres
	01.10.93	Rs. 2530.00 per kilo litres
Levy sugar	17.02.93	Rs.8.30 per kg.
	01.02.94	Rs.9.05 per kg.
Soft coke	27.5.82	Rs.175 per tone

(c) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(d) to (g). Does not arise.

[English]

Telephone Divisional Office in Barroni

1764 SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no divisional telephone office in Barroni Industrial city, Begusarai district Headquarters, and because of which the people have to face a lot of inconvenience;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up such office in the said city also;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) It is true that there is no Divisional Telephone Office (known as Telecom District Engineer) at Barauni. The subscribers of Barauni are served by the office of Telecom District Manager at Darbhanga.

(b) Barauni is a part of Darbhanga SSA (Secondary Switching Area). As per the policy of the Department only one Telecom District can be opened in a S.S.A.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) As indicated at (b) above.

[English]

Food Security

1765 SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the precautions being taken by the Government to ensure that the long-term food security of the country does not jeopardise by the policies that are being advocated by the developed countries for adoption at the World Food Summit of November, 1996;

(b) whether the Government have so far taken only lukewarm interest in the forthcoming Summit and its participation in the preparatory meetings has been at a low level and without any effective contribution;

(c) whether the ever-increasing use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides and the likely patenting of seeds would increase the input costs and add to the problem of rural indebtedness in India and make agriculture profitable only for large "agri-business" western corporations; and

(d) what precise measures are being contemplated to safeguard Indian agriculture and strengthen India's food security?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Providing food security to the population is fundamental to the policy of the Government and in pursuance of this, policies are pursued aiming at (i) increased production to meet the demands of rising population and of rising per capita income, (ii) making available foodgrains at affordable prices to all and (iii) continuity in availability in foodgrains is assured by adopting buffer stocking policy for the central pool which feeds the PDS.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) As far as the cost of chemical fertilizers is concerned, there has been no increase in the price of urea which continues to be under Retention Price Scheme. The enhanced concession allowed w.e.f. 6.7.96 on decontrolled phosphatic and pottasic fertilizers has resulted in the availability of fertilizers at cheaper rates to farmers. Government have adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as guiding principle in plant protection strategy since 1981. It is broad ecological approach encompassing cultural, mechanical, biological methods and techniques of pest control. This helps minimise input costs, environment pollution and maintains ecological equalibrium. It has been decided to evolve a *sui generis* system for protection of plant varieties which inter alia seeks to protect the traditional rights of the farmers as well as rights of the plant breeders and researchers. The proposed *sui generis* system would contain adequate safeguards to ensure that seeds of improved varieties which are granted protection are available to farmers at a reasonable price. To ensure increased production measures like subsidies on inputs, increased institutional credit and better access to institutional credit for small and marginal farmers and other weaker sections to enable them to adopt modern technology and improved agricultural practices, support prices and marketing facilities are being provided.

Advertisements

1766 SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received